

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00997 041347Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 /032 W
-----017874 041443Z /45

R 041120Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC 139

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CT, UK
SUBJ: UK CONSULAR PROBLEMS IN CAE

1. RECENT INCIDENT IN BANGUI POINTS UP ONCE AGAIN NEED FOR BRITISH TO TAKE SOME ACTION TO PROTECT THEIR NATIONS RESIDENT IN OR TRANSITTING CAE. TWO UK CITIZEN TOURISTS RORY AND JANE LESLEY GREGORY WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY MAY 2. THEIR VEHICLE, CAMERAS AND PASSPORTS WERE SEIZED. THEY WERE NOT RELEASED UNTIL MORNING OF MAY 4 AND THEIR CAMERAS AND PASSPORTS ARE STILL IMPOUNDED. GREGORYS BROUGHT PROBLEM TO OUR ATTENTION, AND CONSULAR OFFICER ON OTHER BUSINESS AT IMMIGRATION OFFICE WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM DETENTION AND PROVIDE LIMITED INTERPRETING FOR THEM WITH OFFICIALS WHO SPOKE NO ENGLISH.

2. THERE ARE A STEADY STREAM OF UK AND COMMONWEALTH TOURISTS TRANSITTING BANGUI. THEY FREQUENTLY TURN UP ON OUR DOORSTEP WHEN THEY HAVE PROBLEMS. ONE PARTICULARLY VEXING PROBLEM IS THAT OF ZAIRIAN VISAS. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO HELP WITH THEM AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM BRITISH EMBASSY YAOUNDE CONCERNING VISAS SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO US BUT TO ZAIRIAN EMBASSY DIRECTLY.

3. GOCAE, AT TIME OF GOLDSMITH INCIDENT, MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT IT DID NOT WANT USG INVOLVED IN UK CITIZEN AFFAIRS.
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CONSULAR OFFICER WAS TOLD THIS AGAIN AT TIME OF HIS INFORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL CONTACT WITH GREGORYS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US IF EMBASSY YAOUNDE COULD BRING THIS RECENT INCIDENT TO THE ATTENTION OF BRITISH CHARGE FOR CAE IAN GLASBY. GLASBY AND I HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT OF UK-CAE RELATIONS WHEN I WAS IN YAOUNDE FOR

ECONOMIC SEMINAR IN MARCH. I EXPLAINED TO HIM OUR LIMITED
ABILITY TO HELP IN ANYTHING EXCEPT REAL EMERGENCIES AND URGED
HMG TO FIND WAY TO REESTABLISH SOME DIRECT MEANS OF PROTECTING
ITS CITIZENS IN THE CAE. I THINK GREGORY DETENTIONS POINT
UP NEED FOR SUCH ACTION.
QUAINTON

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